

WE MUST START TANKER REPLACEMENT NOW.

Tankers make the Air Bridge possible and are essential to the success of joint and coalition military operations.

Tankers are critical to the deployment and employment of joint combat power, and are crucial to rapid response to combat and humanitarian relief operations.

Tankers put the **GLOBAL** in



GLOBAL VIGILANCE

GLOBAL REACH



GLOBAL POWER



“NKAWTG — Nobody kicks ass without tanker gas.”

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KC-X

TANKER REPLACEMENT

“The mother of the last KC-135 pilot has not been born yet.”

General T. Michael Moseley
Air Force Chief of Staff



AIR BRIDGE

Tankers Enable the Air Force to maintain the global Air Bridge stretching from the United States through Europe and Southwest Asia to the Indian and Pacific Oceans

OUR CURRENT FLEET is a critical thread of vulnerability! The KC-135 fleet is already older than any other force element. We are currently flying 530 Eisenhower-era KC-135s, 29 of which are set to retire in FY07. The readiness, reliability and availability of the KC-135 is in decline.

With an average age of 45 years, it is estimated that it will take over 30 years to replace the KC-135 fleet with the funding currently in place.

QDR assessed the tanker fleet viability and determined that KC-135Es will not be viable past 2010 and the KC-135Rs past 2040.

Assuming the first KC-X would be delivered in FY11 and the delivery profile is 12 tankers per year, replacements will take 30 years. **If we don't start the replacement cycle now, tanker viability will expire without replacements.**

"The tanker is the number one procurement priority for us right now. In this global Air Force business, the single point of failure of an air bridge, the single point of failure for global ISR or the single point of failure for global strike is the tanker."

General T. Michael Moseley
Air Force Chief of Staff

ACQUISITION of a more flexible KC-X multi-role tanker is critical to supporting the sister services and to maintaining air dominance for the nation. KC-X will operate in low to medium threat areas with self-defense protection capability, and operate in a night vision imaging system environment.

- **Primary KC-X refueling missions** will support the Air Bridge, deployment, global attack, homeland defense and theater support for joint, allied and coalition forces.
- **KC-X's additional diverse missions** will not significantly impact its critical fuel offload capability. These include cargo and passenger transportation, aero-medical evacuation and communications relay missions, as well as specialized missions for Special Ops and US nuclear forces.

THE INTENT is to retire all 114 KC-135Es.

To provide capabilities to the joint warfighter, and to be truly part of an interdependent team, the Air Force has resumed a transparent and competitive long-term national recapitalization strategy for tanker replacement. The release of the draft request for proposal occurred 25 September 2006. With a final RFP released in December 2006, the contract award is projected for late summer 2007.

LIFTING LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS on tanker replacement will enable Air Force leadership to transform to a more capable, lethal, sustainable force by managing the tanker inventory in a safe and fiscally responsible way.

TANKERS PASS OVER 3 MILLION POUNDS OF FUEL PER DAY x 365 DAYS A YEAR = 4.44 BILLION POUNDS SINCE 9/11